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July 27, 1992

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HS*

RE: Site Inspection, Yankee Mine, S/049/022, Utah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: July 20, 1992

Time of Inspection: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Conditions: Sunny, warm

Participants: Larry Raddon, Lou Arkon, Operators; Jim Keller, USFS; and
Holland Shepherd, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To follow-up on information of an unpermitted mining operation located at the top of Mary Ellen Gulch, in Utah County.

Jim Keller of the Utah National Forest Service accompanied me on this inspection. The site is located on patented/private ground within the boundaries of the Uintah National Forest. The Forest Service is very interested in any potential down stream impacts the operation may have on Forest Service grounds. The Forest Service was not able to evaluate the property without being accompanied by a state official having jurisdiction over the site.

Earlier, we had been informed by Mark Mesch, of our AML program, that an operation was active up Mary Ellen Gulch in the proximity of the old Yankee and Globe mines. The operation was creating a stream degradation impact at the time Mr. Mesch was at the site. Mr. Mesch noticed a lot of sediment in the stream channel which passes through the mine site.

We did encounter an active mining operation in the area described to us. The operation is specifically located in the SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 20, T3S, R3E. The land is patented and according to the operator, is owned by a Mr. Bill Snapp of Reno, Nevada. The area was extensively mined at the turn of the century, and is riddled with old foundations, shacks, portals and mine dumps.

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The operator has been doing some surface trenching with a backhoe. At this point in time, the work is more exploratory than full blown mining. The trenching activity has taken place on the road and within the stream embankments of the North Fork of Mary Ellen Creek, just below the old Globe mine portals. The stream is perennial where it crosses the old mine workings.

Because the operator was trenching so close to the stream, we expressed concern to him about staying out of the stream bed and keeping loose material out of it. We also expressed concern about the water coming out of the old mine workings. The water is red stained and of lower pH than the water in the stream channel.

I sampled the pH of the water coming out of the furthest portal to the north, on the old Yankee mine pad. The pH measured out to be 5.5. The pH in the stream channel above the place where the portal discharge entered, was 6.5. I didn't measure the pH beyond the point of co-mingling.

We recently met with the operator, Mr. James Warr, at the Division office. Mr. Steve Warr is also involved in the site. The Warrs have leased the property until September of 1992. I had asked the Warrs to come in to discuss permitting the site. They received a copy of our rules and a copy of a Small Mine Operator's Notice of Intent. They will be filling the SMO out as soon as possible and returning it to us.

We explained that if they developed the old mine workings they would need to obtain a UPDES permit from Water Quality and it would be expensive as well as time consuming. We also explained that depending on the amount of the site they disturbed, they might have to take responsibility for some expensive CERCLA clean-up. The site (mine dumps) has been placed on the CERCLIS list.

The ore body is composed, in part, of galena and limonite. The area is heavily mineralized with a great deal of evidence of sulfide/pyrite oxidation. The old waste dumps contain a great deal of sulfide minerals which are acting to degrade the water quality of the stream, especially because the stream runs right through a portion of the old dump. The operators indicated that the natural rock contains high levels of arsenic.

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It was not apparent to me at the time of the inspection that the stream was being degraded with sediment. Discharge from the old portals, however was going into the creek. The drainage way from the portals has been stained red.

Mr. Larry Raddon spoke to us at the site. Mr. Raddon has contracted with the operator to mine the site. He is living at the site with a co-worker, Mr. Lou Arkon. There is a camper trailer on site and an outhouse.

The operator has improved the road going up to the site. It was pre-existing.

jb
cc: Jim Keller, Uintah National Forest
James Warr, operator
S049022









